GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
TEXTILES
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:835
ANSWERED ON:28.04.2016
Working Conditions of Weavers
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Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to formulate any action plan to improve the working conditions of the handloom weavers in the country; and

(b) if so, the details thereof ?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE)
IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES
(SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR)

(a) & (b): The Government of India has been implementing the following schemes during the 12th Plan for the development of the handloom sector and welfare of the weavers to improve the working conditions of the handloom weavers in the country:-

1. National Handloom Development Programme.
2. Handloom Weavers' Comprehensive Welfare Scheme.
3. Yarn Supply Scheme.
4. Comprehensive Handloom Cluster Development Scheme.

1. NATIONAL HANDLOOM DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME:

National Handloom Development Programme (NHDP) is being implemented for development of handlooms, having following components:-

a. Revival, Reform & Restructuring (RRR) package for the handloom sector:

RRR package covered waiver of overdue loan 100% principal and 25% of interest as on 31/3/2010 and recapitalization assistance of eligible apex and primary weavers of the cooperative societies & individual weavers and also provides fresh loan at 6% interest rate along with credit guarantee for 3 years. The RRR Package was approved for implementation upto 28.02.2014.

However, for providing access to subsidized term loan as well as working capital loan to handloom weavers not covered under loan waiver package, Government has approved Concessional Credit Component. The loan is sanctioned to weavers at 6% interest and Government of India interest subvention is max.7% and to leverage the loan, Government provides margin money assistance upto Rs.10, 000 per weaver and credit guarantee through Credit guarantee Trust Fund for Micro and Small Enterprises (CGTMSE).

b. Comprehensive Handlooms Development Scheme(CHDS):

The Comprehensive Handlooms Development Scheme (CHDS) has been formulated by merging the components of Integrated Handloom Development Scheme (IHDS), Marketing & Export Promotion Scheme (MEPS) and Diversified Handloom Development Scheme (DHDS), implemented during the 11th Plan. Sub-components of the CHDS are as follows:-

â€¢ Development of handloom clusters of different sizes
â€¢ Marketing Incentive
â€¢ Organizing handloom exhibitions, both in India and abroad for marketing of handloom products
â€¢ Strengthening of handloom organizations/institutions
â€¢ Handloom Census
â€¢ Publicity, monitoring, supervision, training and evaluation of the scheme

2. HANDLOOM WEAVERS COMPREHENSIVE WELFARE SCHEME:

This scheme has two components namely:

i) Health Insurance Scheme (HIS): This schemes aims at enabling the weavers community to access healthcare facilities which has now been transferred to Ministry of Health and Family Welfare w.e.f. 01/04/2015. This scheme is to be implemented on the lines of Rashtriya Swasthya Bima Yojana and Indoor Patient facility of Rs.30, 000/- for the year 2016-17 will be provided under Rashtriya

Swasthya Bima Yojana.

ii) Mahatma Gandhi Bunkar Bima Yojana (MGBBY): This scheme aims at to provide insurance cover to handloom weavers in case of natural as well as accidental death and in cases of total and partial disability. A scholarship of Rs.300/- per quarter per child subject to two children studying in standard IX to XII is also provided under the scheme.

3. YARN SUPPLY SCHEME (YSS):

This scheme makes available all types of yarn at Mill Gate Price to the eligible handloom agencies and the transport and depot operating expenses are being borne by the Government of India.
Price subsidy of 10% on hank yarn is provided for notified yarn supplied to the handloom sector by National Handloom Development Corporation (NHDC), in addition to freight reimbursement under the Mill Gate Price Scheme.

4. COMPREHENSIVE HANDLOOM CLUSTER DEVELOPMENT SCHEME:

Mega handloom cluster covers 25,000 handlooms and is developed at an upper GoI share of Rs.70.00 crore each in a period of 5 years. The Comprehensive Handloom Cluster Development Scheme (CHCDS) is implementation during XII Plan for development of Mega Handloom Cluster. As per the scheme Mega Handloom Cluster should have 15,000 handlooms and funding upto Rs. 40 crore as Government of India share is eligible per cluster.

The guidelines of Comprehensive Handloom Cluster Development Scheme (CHCDS) have been amended in August 2015, which mainly pertains to the adoption of the Block Level Cluster approach, on the lines of NHDP. So far, eight mega handloom clusters at Varanasi (U.P.), Sivasagar (Assam), Murshidabad (West Bengal), Godda (Jharkhand), Virudhnagar, Trichy (Tamilnadu), Prakasham & Guntur (A.P.), Bhagalpur (Bihar) have been taken up for development in handloom sector.
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